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You can display an opium pipe in you house as a trendy artefact - but ya still gotta hide the bong …

Anything after the rise of the Dark Ages is the *fruit of the poison tree.* The Dark Ages, defined by the banning of philosophy, involved a highjacking of Reality, replacing it with a fake one to serve the interests of those in control. The only way to get back on track is to reconnect with the Golden Age quest to discover the truth. Without that, we're simply swapping out one hijacked reality for another one.

When you talk about pre-programming in a fake-reality universe - Culture is the program.

Lafin - if i was ever gonna be envious of someone it might be Lafin, the Taitung/Amis driftwood artist - talented, handsome, cool, popular - but then again, envy is kinda impossible with him - he’s too affable/humble.

Kung Fu movies: As my uncle used to say: *i can’t understand why the Chinese don’t win the long jump & the high jump at the Olympics*

I'm intrigued by the skilled guitarist/singer - music flows out of them - alien like compared to normal people - but for many of them, amazingly, they can't write a song to save themselves - can only play what's already been composed by someone else. Philosophically speaking - people are doing good work - but the magic ingredient will always be originality - that's why i keep away from contemporaries - nothing against them - but i've got my own train of thought - it's building fine, holding together - it tackles the big three:

1. Why is there existence? Why do we *want* to exist? (technically that's two but they're entangled (as they all are))
2. The Nature of Reality. Is Reality real? It appears not
3. Ethics

As such, i don't wanna be subsumed in someone else's thinking when i think i can get to the answers myself.

Grasp of reality - that expression sums up our relationship to reality - implies there is a reality - but at best we have a grasp of it - not a full understanding

Empiricism is fatally flawed. It claims to define reality in an exact manner (which in itself is wrong & dangerous) - according to the data - but the trouble is there's so much data that we're missing/not able to comprehend that it never gives the full picture. It also excludes the non-exact tools of understanding that are Arts &

Logic - which can go places Empiricism can't - due to data limitations. Whereas Logic can soundly deduce an answer for which there may not be exact, empirical data, the Empiricists are left to shrug their shoulders & say: well, we don't have evidence for that ...

- once something’s fatally flawed that means its premise has collapsed to sand. That’s not repairable - forget about your sunken costs - they’re gone - what’s your best move from here? It’s not to double-down on empiricism. Though that is the current method.

Empiricism has a function - but it’s like fire once it gets a life of its own - good servant but terrible master.
Economic rationalism is a great example of empiricism gone mad. Australia example - we had Bob Hawke - we were world leaders in a bunch of stuff - including renewable technology, then Keating took over with his economic rationalism - Australia’s sliding doors moment

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